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THE STANDARD HISTORY OF OUR CIVIL WAR.*

This most important volume comprises the history of the Army of the Potomac during the entire year 1863, including the campaigns of Chancellorsville and Gettysburgh, and it also gives us the whole of the Vicksburg campaign. It is therefore by far the most interesting volume of the three. Like its predecessors, it is written in an animated, vigorous style; the reader's attention never flags; the transitions are skilfully made; the story is illustrated and brought home to us by personal incident and by graphic descriptions of the scenery and persons of the drama; lastly, the criticism is so interwoven with the narrative that the reader is, as it were, taken into the confidence of the author, there is no parade of technical knowledge, and very little use is made of technical terms. It is, moreover, an eminently impartial history; Federals and Confederates are treated with entire fair-

* HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA. By the Comte de Paris. (Published by special arrangement with the author.) Volume III. Philadelphia: Porter & Coates.

ness; and though it is plain enough that the writer speaks from the Northern standpoint, there is no minimizing of the exploits of the Southern armies or their leaders. It is certainly a fortunate thing for this country that this history, which we believe will always rank as the standard history of the great Civil War, is written by a foreigner, who yet has had the advantage of serving with the armies of the nation, and of personal acquaintance with many of the chief actors on both sides of the conflict. Such a work cannot but serve a useful purpose in increasing the mutual respect which the two sections of the country now feel for one another.

The book is carefully edited by Colonel John P. Nicholson, of Philadelphia, whose notes illustrate and correct the text in many places. We regret that it has not been practicable to supply the requisite maps. The reader must have recourse to other authorities for this most useful, or, in fact, indispensable, accompaniment of a military history.

A few verbal corrections we may here note, as having apparently escaped attention. On p. 452, for "Chantilly" we should read "Gainesville"; on p. 502, for "Blue Ridge" read "South Mountain"; p. 525, line 26, for "Baltimore" read "Philadelphia"; p. 563, line 11, the meaning of the word "save" is not clear; p. 581, line 9, "not" should be inserted before "impressed"; p. 679, line 5 from foot of the page, the word "are" should precede "in a strategic point of view." But these are but trifling errors; and the general execution of the translation and the correction of the proofs is very creditable to all concerned.

The movements which led to the battle of Gettysburgh possess perhaps as much interest for the military student as any movements that took place in our war. The skill with which both armies were handled throughout that campaign is admitted. Lee of course had the advantage of taking the initiative, and of being free from all control by the Richmond authorities. Hooker to a considerable extent, and Meade to a less degree, were, it is true, both of them more or less

hampered by directions from Washington, and perhaps might have done more with the Army of the Potomac had they been entirely unfettered in their manœuvres than they were able to do, acting under the instructions they received. Yet it would be difficult to show that either of them made any mistakes, or that any other course than that actually pursued would have given the Federal army a better chance of victory.

We observe that the Comte de Paris attributes to Hooker the plan, after he had crossed the Potomac in the latter days of June, of crossing the South Mountain and attacking Lee's rear in the Cumberland Valley, and he calls this a "bolder and more promising plan" than the one insisted on by General Halleck, and which Meade carried out. In fact, the Count says that Meade did not dare to follow out this plan of Hooker's. Whether Hooker did intend to push his whole army through the passes of the South Mountain upon Hagerstown and Funkstown and there await the movements of the Army of Northern Virginia, we have always doubted, though it has been often asserted that he did so intend. But that such a course would have been a dangerous one would seem to be plain. Lee would in such case either have returned through the Cumberland Valley and attacked Hooker, or have moved upon Baltimore or Philadelphia. In the first case, Hooker must have either accepted battle with the Potomac in his rear, thereby exposing his army to most unnecessary risk, or have retreated through the South Mountain passes, which might have been a difficult matter, and even if accomplished successfully, General Lee would have been free to recommence his invasion. In the second case, Lee would almost certainly have had things his own way until our army had recrossed the South Mountain. Taking all the circumstances into account, it seems pretty clear that Hooker's movement toward Harper's Ferry had accomplished all that could have been expected from it, and that the moment its natural effect was noticed in the sudden check to the further progress of the invading army, sound military reasons demanded that the Army of the Potomac should be manœuvred on the east side of the mountains, to meet the Army of Northern Virginia, which General Meade foresaw would now concentrate its scattered columns and prepare for a decisive battle.

The narrative portions of the Comte de Paris' work are clear, animated, stirring. Often as the story of Gettysburgh has been told, it is here to be found recounted with a spirit and a freshness most attractive.

JOHN C. ROPES.

A POET OF TRANSCENDENTALISM.*

Among the minds stirred about half a century ago by the impulse of Transcendentalism, one of the least conspicuous, and since that time one of the least known, was one which now fairly promises to be foremost in the poetic interpretation of the movement. As the personal influence of men and women disappears with their exit from the stage on which they played their parts, and their works only remain to praise them, many singular changes are wrought. A charming presence, a moving voice, a persuasive smile, are indications of character and legitimate means of influence. But in literature they have no value, excepting some slight attractiveness which they add to work which is undeniably good as it stands in the unflattering black and white of the printed page. On the other hand, however unattractive be the personality of a thinker, and however small his power to use eye, hand, voice, and presence, as a means of communication, good work once committed to the press will win its way and justify its author.

Therefore it happens that Jones Very, for forty years past one of the most reserved, modest, retiring, and unknown of literary men, now slowly comes to the front, while many of the brilliant and attractive men and women who were in the group in which Emerson, Alcott, and Margaret Fuller were the principal figures, begin to fade away, and, dying, leave scarcely a sign to indicate the secret of their charming influence. By the contemporaries of his youth, Emerson, Channing, Hawthorne, and many others, Very was rated at his true value, and about forty years ago Emerson induced him to permit the publication of a small edition of his poems, which seemed to Emerson, as he wrote to his friend Carlyle, "to have a grandeur."

In the dainty volume now offered to the public by his friends, we have the brief story of his life and an enlarged edition of his poems. It seems to me not exaggeration to say that, for the one thing in which they excel—the spiritual interpretation of nature—these poems have no rivals in American literature, and are to be compared only with the best work of Wordsworth in the same department. The "sense sublime of something far more deeply interfused," which gave Wordsworth his power of interpreting nature, was to Very a reality to such an extent that his language ceases to be metaphorical. Tropes and figures which, used by other poets, would be regarded as "poetical," come from his pen as simple statements of fact. When he says:

* POEMS. By Jones Very. With an Introductory Memoir by W. F. Andrews. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

"The flowers I pass have eyes that look on me,
The birds have ears that hear my spirit's voice,
And I am glad the leaping brook to see,
Because it doth at my light step rejoice,"

he means literally that he and the birds, the streams, and the flowers, have means of a mutual understanding denied to other men, because they refused to become submissive to the Divine will as he had done.

The brief story of Very's college life as student and Greek tutor in Harvard University, his "illumination," the threat of insanity, and his intercourse with Clarke, Channing, and Emerson, will be found a rare bit of mysticism in this prosaic and practical generation. Whether insane or not, Very believed himself to be the actual medium of the Holy Spirit; that his poems were dictated to him; that they were sent as a message from God to man, not to be marred even by the change of a word. Natural genius and the finest classical culture had given him unerring good taste and command of the Shakspearean sonnet as a means of communicating his thought to the world, and the uninstructed reader would never suspect that he was reading the words of a man "beside himself" according to the standard of what we call "common sense." His was uncommon sense as Channing thought, a higher mood of sanity, to which few men ever attained.

In one way only does the exaggeration of his statement indicate a disordered perception. No man but himself was "right." He tried to say to Emerson that he was right, but he told him "The Spirit said you were not right; it is just as if I should say, it is not morning, but the morning says it is morning." To the message of the morning, Very listened, and he believed that no one else did. Hence an exaggerated condemnation of his fellows and a turning away from all that we call modern progress. He says:

"I walk the streets, and though not meanly drest,
Yet none so poor as can with me compare;
I only ask the living word to hear
From tongues that now but speak to utter death;
I thirst for one cool cup of water clear,
But drink the riled stream of lying breath;
And wander on, though in my Fatherland,
Yet hear no welcome voice and see no beckoning hand."

He heard nothing, or but now and then a note of "the still, sad music of humanity" which came to the ears of Wordsworth mingled with the songs that nature sang to him. Yet there is a verse which hints at possibilities of a larger life for him:

"As the years come gliding by me,
Fancy's pleasing visions rise,
Beauty's cheek, ah! still I see thee,
Still your glances, soft blue eyes!"

One would like to know whether he wrote

this "by permission, not by commandment," and we must regret that by some miscarriage of his genius he was reduced to the singing of one sweet song to nature when clearly he might have been a poet of humanity whose verses would have moved the world to listen.

GEORGE BATCHELOR.

DYNAMIC SOCIOLOGY.*

The Empirical Philosophy, which finds its best representative in the English world of thought at the present time in Mr. Spencer, has brought with it important correctives and additions to philosophical inquiry. Insufficient as we may regard its fundamental principles, this fact of the value of its work should not be forgotten by us. It is a matter of surprise, however, even with a clear recognition of the ease with which philosophy falls into rhythmic excess, first in this and then in that direction,—a law which Mr. Spencer has been careful to point out,—to see the confidence with which young disciples of this school push their conclusions to their extreme limits, and the sense of complete and final possession with which they enter the field of thought. A writer of this order is apt to give as little that is valuable, and as much that is crude and preposterous, as any disciple of any school.

Mr. Ward's "Dynamic Sociology," in two volumes of thirteen hundred and forty pages, is an illustration in order. Anxious not to do the work injustice, we are quite content that what we say shall be accepted simply as our opinion, and that the fact should be at once recognized that there are some at least who would not at all share it. We do not speak of the book as stupid, but as a noteworthy example of the narrowing and distorting effects on an acute mind of an extreme philosophy, when it is made the sole medium of looking at facts; and a still more remarkable example of a philosophy precipitating itself headlong into the very errors against which it arose in protest. Our space is so brief that we can only indicate the direction of criticism, and the form of assertion by the author which justifies it. A true philosophy of mind is swept away with the statement:

"The leading scientists and philosophers now realize and announce that all possible observable phenomena have real antecedents, and that therefore the work of investigating them is no longer a hopeless task, as it certainly would be if the possibility of the absolute independence of any phenomenon were admitted" [vol. i, p. 8].

As real antecedents here stand for causal

* DYNAMIC SOCIOLOGY; OR, APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCE. By Lester F. Ward. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

antecedents, nothing more is to be said for spiritual powers.

"The first step in this movement is the recognition of the primary law that in the last analysis all results are accomplished by force. Although this proposition may shock the minds of many when brought forward as a law of society, it is really no more than saying in other words that all effects are produced by causes, which is a truism" [page 32].

The ordinary motives and agents of this higher life are disposed of with equal ease:

"The leading thinkers of our time also now concede and declare that the only ultimate object which can be successfully maintained for human effort is the improvement of the human race upon this planet" [page 8]. "The failure of all religious systems to accomplish this is now apparent to all capable of observing the history of the world from a wholly unbiassed standpoint" [page 10]. "It is no longer a question among modern medical men that the remarkable actions of those men who have laid claims to divine inspiration and founded religious systems must be referred not only to a pathological but to an actually deranged condition of their minds. The strange truth thus comes up for our contemplation that, instead of having been guided and impelled by intellect and reason throughout all the years of history, we have been ruled and swayed by the magnetic passions of epileptics and monomaniacs" [page 12]. "All the real progress that has been made in the world has been the result of accident, or, at least, of the operation of the uncontrolled and unknown laws of nature. * * * It is natural selection that has created intellect; it is natural selection that has developed it to its present condition, and it is intellect as a product of natural selection that has guided man up to his present position" [page 15]. "The only means by which the condition of mankind ever has been or ever can be improved, is the utilization of the materials and the forces that exist in nature" [page 18].

These passages outline the sociology of the work which is to follow, and are of so extreme and dogmatic a character as to repel at once the reader who does not share the convictions expressed in them. The reading of a book in which assertion is of this sweeping order is a laborious and irritating task. The author applies his principles in the same unhesitating way in which he advances them.

"The fundamental law of human nature, and therefore of political economy, is that all men will, under all circumstances, seek their greatest gain. All the alleged exceptions to this rule are apparent only, and experience has a thousand times over established their entire unreliability as grounds of public policy" [page 20].

There is hardly any assertion concerning political economy which we should regard as more untrue than this. It is also our conviction that some of the best students of this topic are more and more distinctly recognizing it as untrue. In reference to the past, the author is pessimistic.

"A rational being must, as a direct and inevitable consequence of his rationality, be led into the most vital errors, for which he must further be deceived

into cherishing the most intense regard, until, by the slow march of solid knowledge and the ultimate adoption of the scientific method of laborious research and crucial tests, truth at last emerges and the clouds of error vanish" [vol. ii., page 30].

He cherishes only the least glimmer of hope for the future. The light, if it come at all, is to come primarily from a scientific education.

"Before progress can be achieved, a public sentiment must exist in favor of scientific education as strong as it ever has existed in favor of religious education" [page 26]. "The school would fill the place now occupied by the church. The scientific lecture would supersede the sermon, and the study of natural objects and of standard scientific works would form a substitute for the study of sacred writings" [page 27].

Though we are among the number of those who warmly urge education in science as a means of progress, we still think that Mr. Ward can be referred with profit to his own corypheus, Mr. Spencer, for the enforcement of the much greater need of moral education.

In reading a half dozen pages of this work, one accumulates material, by way of correction and refutation, for twice as many more. Too much or too little breadth of statement, perversion, and absolute error, are thickly strewn in all parts. We have extended our quotations sufficiently to show that the book is intensely dogmatic. We will enforce only one other point: it is exceedingly unphilosophical and unempirical. Indeed, its want of empirical quality is involved in its dogmatism.

"Man is not only a part of nature as a whole, but nature antedated him and has produced him" [vol. ii., page 3]. "All the great secular processes of nature, including the development of organic forms and of man, have been impelled by blind and mindless energies guided by no intelligence or conscious power either from within from or without." * * * "Granted that material units tend to cohere into units of higher orders—a fact of common observation in all the established sciences—and the evolution of a man is no more remarkable than the evolution of a metal or a crystal" [vol. ii., page 5]. "A certain degree of adaptation is necessary to the existence of a form; therefore, for forms to exist at all, they must be to a certain extent adapted. If those forms that now exist had not existed, others would have existed. These, like the present ones, would also have been adapted. They would have stood the same chance to be higher as to be lower forms. We have as much reason to wonder that we do not see higher forms as that we see forms as high as those actually existing" [vol. ii., page 8].

These passages are good examples of the exasperating assurance of the author, of the manner in which he uses the truth to make an erroneous impression, and the absolute lack of any philosophical temper. If these passages are to be accepted, both philosophy and science are much ado about nothing. A single sentence should dispose of every prob-

lem. Things must be in some way; they may as well be in this way as in any other. It was the error of the Scholastic Philosophy that it lost itself in verbal relations and became an expansion of unverified conceptions. Positive Philosophy sprang up in denial of the intelligibility of the results thus reached. Empirical Philosophy set itself the task of a radical correction of the method employed. The author before us lies in this line of descent. Yet, give attention to the following words, which are in no small degree typical of the method now employed in the so called Empirical School:

"This perpetual excitement of the impressible substance of the cortical layer, with its complicated folds, tends to keep alive the impressions made in it by the action of the sensorium as conveyed by the ascending fibres. The substance of this portion of the brain is so specialized by the action of natural selection that the slightest impulse received from the sensorial centre is not only distinctly felt, but so deeply imprinted upon the brain tissue that it remains for a great length of time, or during life. The process of nutrition, which is constantly going on from materials copiously supplied by the blood, does not obliterate these impressions, but acts after the manner of the calcareous or siliceous particles in the process of petrification, and, while rapidly renewing the actual matter of the tissues, preserves the form with the utmost fidelity. As the general experience of the whole body is constantly producing new states of consciousness, which are each in turn transmitted to the cerebral hemispheres and stamped upon the cortical layer, the incessant flow of the blood arouses the older of these into action along with the newer, and so commingles them into simultaneous activity that they are necessarily compared and contrasted. The several harmonies and discords thus produced are the fundamental elements of thought, and, whenever they become sufficiently vigorous, they discharge themselves along the descending fibres to the sensorium, which sends them out in the form of motor impulses to the muscles whose contraction will produce the action demanded by the thought, or to emotional centres in the form of painful or pleasurable states of mind. The transmission of a state of consciousness from the sensorium to the cerebrum and the impression which it directly makes upon the latter organ constitute an *experience*. The revival of such an experience by the action of the blood, in rapidly circulating through the particular tissue upon which the impression was made, constitutes a *remembrance*" [vol. i., page 379].

The mental science involved in this passage is pure theory. It is hardly too much to say, that there is no proof whatever of it; certainly no admitted and sufficient proof.

The Empirical Philosophy shows two unmistakable signs of decay: it regards the simple transfer of relations into its own form of expression, without proof drawn either from reason or experience, as sound philosophy; and it delights in and misleads itself by a technical terminology. It is high time that the true empirical spirit should wake up and cast off the Empirical Philosophy. Even sci-

ence, with all its strength, cannot afford to be weighted with such purely verbal expositions or be in any way affiliated with them.

JOHN BASCOM.

THE LIFE OF GENERAL DIX.*

Doctor Dix is to be congratulated on having so well performed the loving task he undertook, and given his readers an impression of his father so true and honest, so free from exaggerated and promiscuous praise, yet so full of filial regard and proper admiration. Most who read it will wish that more pages had been given to the home-life of one whose family and every-day relations must, from the glimpses given, have been so worthy of imitation and of praise. The book has good literary qualities; the style is pure and easy, earnest and genuine, and the work is evidently that of a scholar and one accustomed to the use of the pen.

John Adams Dix was born in the little village of Boscawen, on the Merrimac River, in New Hampshire, toward the close of the eighteenth century, when the United States had been an independent nation hardly twenty-two years, and but three new States had been added to the original thirteen; and he lived to see the country of his birth and love, in whose service he had spent so many years of his active life, pass its one hundredth anniversary, stretching out from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and southward to the Rio Grande, embracing thirty-eight States and numerous Territories, and increased in population from five to fifty millions, having taken rank as one of the first powers on the earth. His father and mother were both of Revolutionary patriot stock, honorable God-fearing New Englanders, and for three generations his father's family had lived in the village of his birth, the most important people of the place; and under the care of such parents, anxious to provide for their children the best possible advantages of education and of moral and religious culture, he grew up to manhood. It is to be noted, as a proof of thorough freedom from intolerance remarkable in those days of strict Puritan Congregationalism in New England, that the youthful Dix was sent by his father, to complete his education, to a Catholic college at Montreal, toward the heads of which school he seems always to have retained a warm and affectionate regard, although he never revisited this scene of his boyhood until near the close of his long life. His father's confidence in these instructors

* MEMOIRS OF JOHN ADAMS DIX. Compiled by his Son, Morgan Dix. In two volumes. New York: Harper & Brothers.

was not abused, and the General himself bears witness to their honorable avoidance of even the appearance of attempting to convert him from the faith of his fathers.

The war of 1812 interrupted his college career, and at the early age of fifteen he joined the United States Army as an ensign; and from that time until within a year or so of his death he was constantly in public life, holding always honorable and creditable rank, and reaching some of the highest offices in the gift of his fellow citizens, though never by time-serving or by sacrifice of self-respect. As one reads the record of his many years, it is impossible not to remark how constantly he took a part in the various measures of importance that from time to time occupied the attention and roused the activities and interest of his state or nation; and thus his life is no mean epitome of the history of the country, and cannot fail to interest and instruct the reader and student. From his earliest entrance into politics, throughout his entire life, he seems never to have descended to the dishonorable and dishonoring tricks of the politician, but always to have acted from the purest motives and with the most exalted love of country. Like the fathers of the Democratic party—the party to which he belonged—he never believed in slavery, although his devotion to the constitutional rights of the several states led him always to shrink from the Abolitionists as revolutionary and dangerous men; and so at times his public acts and speeches appear to us, who are freed from the accursed question of slavery by the results of a great war, to savor of the compromising shuffling which was so common among the Websters and Douglasses and other public men of the times before that war, in both the great political parties at the North. And this appearance of moral cowardice would seem even to strike his biographer, since in several places he takes pains to explain actions and speeches wherein the slavery question played a part. The phrase “appearance of moral cowardice” is used advisedly; for while one does not always agree with the explanations given by the son for the father’s line of conduct, it does seem in all cases, when carefully considered, that General Dix never shrank from any course which he believed to be right, or from any utterances in favor of such course; and one is forced to the conviction that in some way, by some line of reasoning, his acts and utterances were squared with that belief.

It is curious how irrepressible the negro agitation was during the second quarter of the present century, down to the dark days of Buchanan’s closing administration; how,

though time and again, in the opinion of the politicians and statesmen of the Whig and Democratic parties, laid at rest by compromise after compromise with the South, the dreaded issue forced itself again and again into prominence, now through the fears of the slave holders and now through the conscience of the North; and it is to us, who have seen its final settlement in the assured freedom of the slave, well-nigh incomprehensible that men like John A. Dix, whose consciences were undoubtedly wide awake and active, and judgment and foresight in other matters sound and clear, could so constantly consent to shut their eyes to the enormous wrong the nation was fathering, and allow their otherwise keen sense of right and justice to be blunted by legislation which was either a blot on the fair fame of the Republic or a cowardly attempt to put off the responsibilities of a free people upon their children and their children’s children. To say that John A. Dix shared too much in the views of the statesmen and public men of that day regarding the proper treatment of this most momentous question, is no more than truth demands; and his son admits the fact in acknowledging the persistent objection always made by his father to being charged with any tendency to sympathise with the Abolitionists; yet it must not be forgotten that only to a very few men in those days was it given to clearly see the great wrong in its true colors, and to an even smaller number, clearly seeing, to have the moral courage to boldly denounce it and hopefully expect and predict its end. And it must always be remembered that at the first open armed assault on the national government by the slave power, at the sound of the first gun that opened upon Fort Sumter, no man more cordially seconded the government, and through the darkest days more faithfully persisted in refusing to despair of the Republic, than John A. Dix. However we may judge his acts before the election of 1860, there can be but one judgment passed upon his course from the time when in that winter Mr. Buchanan called him to Washington as Secretary of the Treasury, when, in efforts to save the property of the Nation from the treasonable conversions of the South, he issued his famous order for the defence of the national flag, to the close of his official life, when he laid down the office of Governor of New York, defeated of reelection by the party which claimed to have had his early fealty, but whose principles had ceased to respond to those of the old hero, who owed his last public office to the Republican party. During all the years of the Civil War, he stood shoulder to shoulder with the

champions of freedom—with Lincoln and Stanton, Sumner and Seward, Sherman and Grant; antagonistic to many of his old associates, always trusted by the friends of the Union, always respected by those whom he was by his conscientious loyalty forced to oppose; and his acts and words during the rest of his life must convince all fair-minded men that his course also in his earlier years was founded on honest judgment that he was acting for the best interests of the land he lived in.

Through the war, General Dix did valuable service for the Union cause, and when the contest was over, victory assured, and his military trusts laid down, he had well earned the rewards which President Johnson first bestowed upon him, culminating in the mission to France, where he ably represented the United States, and those which a grateful State next honored him with in electing him to the Governorship of New York. All public duties were well performed by him at all periods of his career, whether he is seen as an officer of the army in his early years, as a senator in Congress, or postmaster of New York City, where he was one of the first practical civil service reformers, as Secretary of the Treasury in the winter of 1860-61, when he saved the credit of the nation and laid a foundation to prepare it for the trials to come, or as a general in the armies of the Union, minister to France, or governor of a great state; and his memory must always be respected so long as this nation endures. Rightly does his son call attention to the fact that in all great crises and emergencies the people called on him to serve them, and never in vain or without good and honorable results.

WM. ELIOT FURNESS.

STYLE IN DISCOURSE.*

"Never think of mending what you write; let it go; no patching. As your pen moves, bear constantly in mind that it is making strokes which are to remain forever." Such was the rule laid down by William Cobbett, the great political controversialist, whose style has been described as "the perfection of rough Saxon English," and as distinguished by "a purity always simple, and raciness often elegant." But this is a rule which can safely be followed only by those who have already acquired a good style, which has become natural and easy to them. It is a rule for masters, and not for learners. The latter

need text books and good models, and constant practice in composition. It would perhaps be fair to say that these three things are valuable in inverse order from that in which they are named, and necessary to the acquirement of that style which, when once it has been acquired, may leave one free to follow Cobbett's rule. Good composition depends less upon a thorough knowledge of its laws, as this may be gained by a study of text books upon rhetoric and style, than upon much and careful practice and a certain natural aptitude for selecting the most fitting words in which to express one's thought. Better than the best rhetorical precepts as a guide and help to good composition are clear thought, an active yet chastened imagination, and a sensitive ear. Without these, no amount of familiarity with the principles of style will make one a master of the best English composition. This is not saying that familiarity with these principles is of no importance, for it is of much importance to know what constitutes a beauty and what a blemish of style. Without this knowledge, one might be like that rustic whom Coleridge encountered when he was visiting the waterfall of Foyers in Scotland. The poet-philosopher was seeking the right descriptive word, when some one near him exclaimed: "How majestic!" Turning to him, he said: "Thank you, sir; that is just the word I wanted." "Yes," was the reply; "it is very *pretty*." The study of good models and of works devoted to the elucidation of the principles of style would enable one to select intelligently the right word, and to avoid the wrong or unsuitable one.

Among works of this latter kind, Professor Phelps's book deserves a prominent place. It is the last of three works which he has given to the press within the past two years, all of them having to do with the art of composition and of public speaking. While they are all designed especially for the clerical profession, yet they are adapted to all writers and speakers, and cannot fail of being instructive and practically helpful. The work is presented in the form of lectures, twenty in number, which the author addressed to successive classes of his students. Changed, no doubt, and modified somewhat, from year to year, they are here given in their finally completed and perfected form. The introductory lecture defines style, enumerates and classifies its qualities as—purity, precision, individuality, perspicuity, energy, elegance and naturalness; and then proceeds, in the concluding part of the lecture and in the next four lectures, to examine the quality of purity of style. Under this head, violations of

*ENGLISH STYLE IN PUBLIC DISCOURSE; WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE USAGES OF THE PULPIT. By Austin Phelps, D.D., Late Bartlett Professor of Rhetoric in Andover Theological Seminary. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

purity, obsolete and new-coined words, technicalities, vulgarisms, the destiny of the English language, which is to become more and more universal, reasons for cultivating purity of style, and the danger that it will become corrupted in this country by republican influence, by extent of territory, and by the multitude of immigrant nationalities, are among the interesting topics discussed. Then follow three lectures in which the author discusses precision of style, its violations, the inducements to its cultivation, the popular taste for it, its influence in ministering to clearness, force, elegance, and ingenuousness, and its independent virtue. Perspicuity of style the author shows to be founded on clearness of thought, while obscurity arises from absence of thought, or from vagueness of thought, or from affectation of profound thought, or from rapidity in the succession of thoughts. The other qualities of style, energy, elegance and naturalness, he treats in a similarly thorough and instructive way.

Such is a very brief outline of the general scope of the work. The lectures are illustrated throughout, like the author's previous works, with ample stores of historical incident and appropriate quotation. They do not traverse all the ground of a treatise on rhetoric, but they offer to the reader many wise counsels to guide him in the formation of a good style, which he would not find in any text book on rhetoric. If less philosophical than Herbert Spencer's essay on "The Philosophy of Style," the work is, unlike that, crowded with practical suggestions and helpful illustrations which are found on every page. A good illustration of the author's practical wisdom is found in what he says of the right use and the excess of imagery. He presents that golden mean which, in this as in other things, few seem able to reach. Probably most writers use too much or too little imagery. Some are like Coleridge's schoolmaster, the Rev. James Bowyer, who silenced his trembling pupil thus: "Muse, boy, muse? Your nurse's daughter you mean. Pierian spring? Oh, ay, the cloister pump, I suppose." Others write like Moore in his "Lalla Rookh," where the similes outshine and overlay the subject they are employed to illustrate. To have just enough of what Professor Phelps calls "the likes" in written or spoken discourse—enough to illuminate the subject, and not so much that attraction to the style which is distraction from the thought results—this is indispensable to a perfect style. In order to the most perfect handling of any subject, its treatment should bring into exercise the greatest number of faculties harmoniously united.

Professor Phelps does not overlook the relation of style to personal character; but, as it seems to the writer, he might and should have made more of it. That the style of a writer does correspond closely with and illustrate the character of his mind, sometimes even his moral character, many illustrations might be cited to prove. It will be enough to mention one, Gibbon. "His way of writing," said Archbishop Whately, "reminds one of those persons who never dare look you full in the face." He was a master of sneering, and stronger in insinuation than in assertion. His style expressed his character. One can hardly help regretting that Professor Phelps, with his ample resources, did not employ them in an elucidation of this part of the general subject of style. But this work is one of great value. It will well repay careful study by all those who would form a style upon correct principles, and in harmony with the best models. If our age does not give too much time to the work of gaining a minute and critical knowledge of two dead languages, it certainly does devote too little to the art of using most effectively our own.

GEORGE C. NOYES.

MAN BEFORE METALS.*

M. Joly's work has been for several years known in its French dress, as an authentic elementary compilation of the leading facts of prehistoric archaeology, supplemented by conclusions and opinions of a moderately radical character. In its body of facts, the work could not be other than a reproduction of statements oft repeated; but they are here very judiciously selected and sensibly arranged, and constitute as available a presentation of the elementary ideas of the subject as the student or general reader will anywhere find. As to the interpretation of the facts, M. Joly is much more conservative than Vogt, Caspary, and their class, and occupies a position not far from Broca, Topinard, and Peschel. The work is to be heartily commended as well suited to sustain the general character of the "International Series."

This issue, when compared with that of the *Bibliothèque Scientifique Internationale*, suggests a comment or two. The original contains one hundred and fifty figures in the text, and a full-page frontispiece; the present, one hundred and forty-eight figures, without frontispiece. The American also omits an occasional note or part of a note,

* MAN BEFORE METALS. By N. Joly. With 148 illustrations. (International Scientific Series.) New York: D. Appleton & Co.

as well as all the sentiments placed by the author at the heads of his principal divisions of the subject. The American edition, however, is supplied with a fair index, in place of which the French publisher has obtruded a voluminous book-catalogue. The American illustrations are copies of the French, but they have suffered somewhat in the transplantation. We notice one typographical error (Candium for Cardium, p. 140) which has been faithfully copied, as well as the geological solecism of placing the New Red Sandstone among the "Transition Rocks" (p. 16). We think, moreover, if a work is to be translated, the translation may as well be thorough. We have here a good verbal translation; but the archaic nomenclature of geology, so scrupulously conserved in continental countries, has become obsolete in the English language. Here, nevertheless, we have perpetuated the terms "Primary," "Transition," and "Secondary," as well as other archaisms of science, which a translated book ought not to contain. We could point out other crudities of compilation—such as "layer" for one of the groups of Tertiary strata; but no criticisms of this order should be allowed to derogate from the appreciation and esteem due to a work so generally accurate in statement, temperate in judgment, and happily adapted in treatment to the wants of the intelligent general reader.

ALEXANDER WINCHELL.

BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

THE American edition of the "Life of the Rt. Rev. Samuel Wilberforce," by A. R. Ashwell and Reginald G. Wilberforce, just published by E. P. Dutton & Co., is an abridgment of the original work, in three volumes, which has lately attracted much attention in England. The book will have a charm not only for clergymen of the Anglican Communion, but for many others not ordinarily interested in ecclesiastical affairs. The biographical narrative is written with scrupulous care and in an agreeable style, and this, with the letters and diaries of the bishop, reveals in vivid light the talents, accomplishments, activities and successes of one of the most eminent prelates of the English Church. While pages of his journal are the briefest jottings possible, they are wonderfully rich in glimpses of the man and his times. The career of Bishop Wilberforce was a splendid one, and no appreciative reader can trace its progress without admiration of his great gifts, solid virtues, lofty aims, and distinguished services to his generation. During his long administration of the diocese of Oxford, many mighty ecclesiastical questions agitated the Church, and in the discussion of all these he was more or less engaged; in fact, he was a gallant leader in controversy. Orthodoxy had no more powerful cham-

pion in England than he. He was a brilliant orator, a keen debater, a scholar of varied attainments, with executive ability of a high order and a mind of statesman-like grasp and scope. In the House of Lords he was a commanding figure, and his adroitness, courage, learning, and eloquence made his influence powerful. A good deal was said in some quarters, during his lifetime, to his disparagement; but he was unquestionably a man of the purest life, of comprehensive views and sympathies, of a frank, ardent, affectionate spirit, bold, generous, devout, firm in his convictions and tolerant of the opinions of others. His industry was marvellous, and one seems to catch the contagion of his noble ardor in reading the minutes of his incessant writing, preaching, debating, his Episcopal labors in ordaining, confirming, looking after his schools, and the manifold public and private engagements of his eager life. His versatility was astonishing, and his insight into character and the heart of a subject quick and profound. He did not hesitate to set down what he thought, but never in malice. There are passages in his diaries which convey in the fewest possible words the most correct estimate of persons and performances. The Bishop's friendships and associations were extensive, and with the highest in the realm; but one sees no vanity in his character. His admiration and affection for Mr. Gladstone appears all through his biography, illustrating his noble nature and keen intelligence, while it is the best testimony to the character and genius of England's greatest man. All who are interested in some of the most notable events of modern ecclesiastical history, and who can feel the sweetness and beauty of a strong, aspiring, and consecrated life, of extraordinary activity and usefulness, will find this book a help and an inspiration.

IN reading the new book of travels, by Isabella L. Bird (Mrs. Bishop), entitled "The Golden Chersonese" (G. P. Putnam's Sons), there is a struggle in the mind between admiration of the remarkable pluck of the author and fascination with the marvels and splendors of the tropical life she describes. The route traced in her volume started in Yokohama harbor, whence the writer steamed to the island of Hong Kong and the city of Canton, thence passing to Cochin China and the Malay Peninsula, which last is the *Aurea Chersonesus* of Ptolemy and the "Golden Chersonese" of Milton. Through this extended journey, which occupied the first two months of 1879, Miss Bird pursued her way unattended except by chance companions, and in the more inaccessible and untravelled places was sometimes the only European for miles around. Though moving about alone, she was nevertheless perfectly protected, travelling under English auspices and stopping at the houses of English officials along her route. The best facilities for locomotion to be procured were at her command, and yet were for the most part of a rough and uncivilized kind. Nearly every sort of conveyance, from an elephant's back in the jungle to a frail *prahu* on the water, was in turn brought into requisition, and all kinds of

strange and exciting adventures were encountered by her. Such trifling inconveniences never daunted the lady, however; she was equal to any emergency and self-possessed in every possible circumstance. The nightly howls of the tiger and other wild beasts in the vicinity of her lonely bungalow, the irruption of lizards, rats and lemurs into her unclosed chamber, the frequent discovery of centipedes and snakes under her coverlets and pillows, with no end of similar startling occurrences, were met by her with entire equanimity. When bitten by a poisonous reptile, she coolly cut into the wound with a pen-knife, squeezed it, drenched it in ammonia, and made an end of the matter. At Ruala Kangsa, in the heart of a forest in the interior of the Peninsula, she occupied the English bungalow for some days alone in the absence of the Resident, being served by silent Malays, guarded by silent Sikhs, and taking her meals with a pair of apes, the special pets of the master of the establishment, which sat in their chairs and received the same dignified attentions at each stately repast as the guest herself. Such isolation, freedom from restraints, and companionship with animals, were pronounced enchanting, as association with chattering persons and women who have nerves and travel with trunks are to this phenomenal lady a serious annoyance. Her own baggage comprised a bag and a roll, into which all that a hardy tourist need be encumbered with was compressed. The crowning grace of the accomplished traveller was announced when her bachelor host on one occasion said, in parting with her regretfully: "You never speak at the wrong time. When men are visiting me they never know when to be quiet, but bother one in the middle of business." As the different states in the "Golden Chersonese" visited by Miss Bird are almost unknown to the outside world, she has given brief accounts of them taken from trustworthy sources, but the bulk of her work consists of letters written in the midst of her journeyings, and detailing in a rapid and unstudied style the principal events of each day's history. It is a fleeting glimpse that she is able to present, of magical regions, inhabited by strange races of mankind, and abounding in marvellous forms of animal and plant life; yet it suffices to make up an entrancing picture to be cherished in the memory with the figure of the brave and adventurous woman who faced all the hardships and dangers confronting a traveller in savage wilds, with the spirit of a heroine.

It is needless to say that Judge Tourgee's latest novel, "Hot Plowshares" (Fords, Howard & Hulbert), finishing the series on which he has been engaged since 1867, is in many respects a strong work. It accomplishes its aim—to portray the rise and growth of the anti-slavery sentiment in Northern politics—successfully. Its review of the circumstances which gradually and inevitably stirred the feelings and set the resolutions of conscientious single-hearted men in the free states against the continuance of a system of legalized human bondage in any part of the American republic, is marked with admirable ability and candor. In clear and

concise words, in crisp and pithy sentences, it condenses the history of twenty pregnant years in the political life of the country. Beginning with the election of Gen. Harrison to the Presidency in 1840, it carries the reader on the tide of events to the choice of Abraham Lincoln as the representative of the people in 1860. The chapters devoted to this summary of the nation's progress are by far the best portions of the book, for Judge Tourgee has more enthusiasm and more power as a historian or a political essayist than as a composer of novels. He is particularly effective in portraiture; and his characterizations of Martin Van Buren, John Brown, and Abraham Lincoln, are impressive specimens of subtle and brilliant delineation. It is this faculty which appears to most advantage in his fictitious writing. The figures of those he brings into prominence, as a rule, stand out in bold relief, the more rugged and homely being especially well defined. Of the story wedded to the history in "Hot Plowshares," there is less to be said in commendation. It has the fatal defect of being too long-spun. It is a trying task to travel through six hundred and odd pages to reach the conclusion of a novel, and Judge Tourgee has not had the art in this instance to relieve the passage of tedium. The compactness of his historical method is lost when he attempts imaginary scenes, which he allows to clog and drag heavily with a burden of insignificant details. "Hot Plowshares," though following the rest in date of publication, belongs chronologically at the beginning of the series of six political romances in which the author has reproduced the great anti-slavery struggle during a period extending from 1840 to about 1876.

THE English version of Professor Topelius's Swedish "Surgeon's Stories," of which the initiatory volume was "Times of Gustaf Adolf," is continued in "Times of Battle and of Rest," the second volume just issued by Jansen, McClurg & Co. The stories of which these two volumes form a part are known to all Swedish readers—indeed, to all readers conversant with Norse literature, of which they have long been regarded as a conspicuous ornament. A description of them with an account of their eminent and now venerable author, by Professor R. B. Anderson, was published in THE DIAL for January last. In the present volume are found the same high literary qualities and the same richness of material that were so justly admired in the earlier one. One of the most noticeable characteristics of the author is his literary manifoldness. None but the most accomplished literary workman can turn with such ease from narrative to sentiment, from grand description to playful humor, from chronicles of court life and the stern scenes of war to the tenderest and most touching pathos. This versatility and readiness are shown in the present volume even more fully than in the first. More characters are introduced, and the historic drama takes a wider range. Beginning with the stormy reign of Charles X—a successor of Gustaf Adolf, and the possessor of much of the military genius though but little of the loftiness of character of that great monarch—

the first Part of the volume deals chiefly with the Swedish conquests in Poland, Lithuania, and Denmark, ending with a brilliant description of the crossing of the Swedish army over the ice-bridge of Little Belt, in the winter of 1658. The second Part brings Charles XI upon the stage, and describes magnificently in several chapters the royal hunt in Finland, with the romantic episode of the beautiful but unfortunate Princess Juliana, who was then looked upon as the future queen of Sweden. But chiefly the material of the second part is found in the Witchcraft madness of the seventeenth century, which raged through a large part of Europe, and nowhere with greater violence than in Sweden and particularly its Finnish provinces. To this subject Professor Topelius, as a historian, has devoted minute and thorough study; and in the trial and persecution of Black Jane, the accused witch, he has given a most thrilling and dramatic picture of the terror and superstition of that time, whose shadow yet darkens the pages of Swedish history. The third Part, the longest of the volume, treats of the peaceful but eventful reign of Charles XI, and of the great social revolution which distinguished it—the famous Reduction, which overthrew the power of the nobility, diverted a great portion of its landed property to the crown, recruited the exhausted public treasury, and by a protracted period of retrenchment and economy fitted the country for the grand European struggle upon which it was about to enter under Charles XII, and, indeed, made the splendid career of that great military hero possible. This career forms the subject of the third volume of the series—each volume thus closely fitting into each other as the links of a great historic chain. But it is not only in the grasp of historic details, but in the power to group them into pictures, the masterly skill in combination, and the richness of coloring that infuses all, that the strength of Topelius lies. He is a great literary artist; his style is admirable; his works are stories more than histories; and it is his great story-telling power, his poetic temperament, and his imagination, that enables him to make use of his material in the construction of works which must ever rank among the greatest of historic romances.

"ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON is, in his own way, one of the most perfect writers living," says Philip Gilbert Hamilton. It seems like a piece of absurdly exaggerated praise to one unfamiliar with the books of Mr. Stevenson; but after reading his account of "An Inland Voyage" (Roberts Brothers), the justice of the statement is recognized as thoroughly vindicated. The "Inland Voyage" was as uneventful and prosaic a journey as could be made by a canoeist along the course of a sluggish canal and an insignificant river, yet the historian has invested every incident in his record with the deepest interest. It is a rare illustration of the fact that the traveller sees what he carries with him the faculty for seeing. Mr. Stevenson has the penetrating and subtle insight of the philosopher, which discovers subjects for edifying reflection in the lightest affairs coming under his notice. With this keen and

thoughtful power of observation, he has a talent for expression no less original and striking. Such as these are the pearls he lets fall, with careless prodigality, in the progress of a wholly unpretending narrative: "There should be nothing so much a man's business as his amusements." * * * "To know what you prefer, instead of humbly saying amen to what the world tells you you ought to prefer, is to have kept your soul alive." * * * "You get entertainment pretty much in proportion as you give." * * * And here is one reason of a dozen why the world is dull to dull persons." * * "So long as a thing is on exhibition, and you pay to see it, it is nearly certain to amuse. If we were charged so much a head for sunsets, or if God sent round a drum before the hawthorne came in flower, what a work should we not make of their beauty." These random passages are too brief to show the humor, vivacity, and picturesque quality of Mr. Stevenson's style; and we make room for one that will represent it more fairly: "What is a forest but a city of nature's own, full of hardy and innocuous living things, where there is nothing dead and nothing made with the hands, but the citizens themselves are the houses and public monuments? There is nothing so much alive and yet so quiet as a woodland; and a pair of people swinging past in canoes feel very small and bustling in comparison." * * I wish our way had always been among woods. Trees are the most civil society. An old oak that has been growing where he stands since before the Reformation, taller than many spires, more stately than the greater part of mountains, and yet a living thing, liable to sickness and death, like you and me; is not that in itself a speaking lesson in history? But acres on acres full of such patriarchs contiguously rooted, their green tops billowing in the wind, their stalwart younglings pushing up about their knees; a whole forest, healthy and beautiful, giving color to the light, giving perfume to the air; what is this but the most imposing piece in Nature's repertory? Heine wished to be like *Merlin* under the oaks of *Broceliande*. I should not be satisfied with one tree: but if the wood grew together like a banyan grove, I would be buried under the tap root of the whole; my parts should circulate from oak to oak, and my consciousness should be diffused abroad in all the forest, and give a common heart to that assembly of green spires, so that it also might rejoice in its own loveliness and dignity. I think I feel a thousand squirrels leaping from bough to bough in my vast mausoleum; and the birds and the winds merrily coursing over its uneven, leafy surface." It remains but to be said that Mr. Stevenson's voyage began at Antwerp, and proceeded through a series of canals into and down the river Oise in France.

HENRY RUGGLES's account of "Germany Seen Without Spectacles" (Lee & Shepard) forms an entertaining book without any pretension to being profound or exhaustive. The author has been for many years a resident as well as traveller in European countries, having acted as United States Consul at Malta and at Barcelona, and like other

officials stationed abroad, he improved his opportunities for acquaintance with foreign nations. We are not told how long he remained among the Germans or how intimately he came to know them, but judging from his descriptions he scanned them from many points of view, and if his observations were limited to subjects open to public inspection, they are trustworthy as far as they go. Mr Ruggles is a clever narrator, and depicts the scenes he witnessed with great spirit and effect. His sketch of the brutal sword fights which are habitually practised, or enforced, one might say, in the duelling clubs at the German universities, is the most graphic we remember. Equally telling is his account of a fire in Heidelberg, of the drinking bouts of students and professors, of the degrading servitude imposed upon women of the lower classes, of the strange spectacle of thirsty drinkers daily seen at the royal brewery at Munich, of the musical mania in Stuttgart, and of the royal palaces at Potsdam. In fact every chapter is a picture or group of pictures drawn to the life. The author has the merit of candor and is as outspoken in censure as in approval. He does not hesitate to condemn the custom of Americans going to Paris or Germany to finish their education, and arrays very forcible reasons for pronouncing it ordinarily "a farce." Neither does he spare criticism on the talent and morality of the clergymen who officiate in the English churches and chapels scattered over the continent. His own people come in for their share of reproof in his revelations concerning "tourist tramps from across the Atlantic, confessions of matrimonial exiles, ambitious and intriguing American mothers," and the perilous chances for happiness of American girls who marry for titles. Notwithstanding the desultory character of Mr. Ruggles's work, and its gossip style, which in itself is an attractive feature, it has a large amount of valuable facts and statistics to balance its lighter and more amusing phases.

GEN. A. A. HUMPHREYS, author of a volume reviewed in THE DIAL for June, on the Virginia Campaign of the Potomac Army in 1864-5, has prepared a small supplementary work, entitled "From Gettysburgh to the Rapidan," the matter of which was intended originally to form the first part of the volume referred to, but was excluded for lack of space. It is issued by Charles Scribner's Sons, publishers of the "Campaigns of the Civil War," and its intimate connection with the other volume creates an almost irritating uncertainty as to just what its relation to the series may be. It should have some vital purpose to justify the apparent disturbance of the harmony of the series with which it is inevitably connected in character if not in form. But such a purpose we are unable to discover in it. It would rather appear that its publication was undertaken more as a satisfaction to Gen. Humphreys, who was unwilling to spare the matter he had written, than from any other reason. It epitomizes the movements of the Army of the Potomac from the close of the battle of Gettysburgh to the opening of the year 1864. The statements are the

result of careful collation, and are no doubt accurate. It must be confessed, however, that to read it with interest one must be in the mood; he must put on the armor and invoke the spirit of war. Aside from numberless details, one may learn from it that in 1863 the Army of the Potomac continued to be fettered and restrained by Washington influences. General Meade was not at liberty to carry out his plans. The time was fast coming, but had not ripened, when Washington should furnish men and supplies, and give full scope to the military commanders. It came in the following year. The more the history of that army is studied, the more must admiration for it increase. It is a popular error to suppose that army did not fight. From 1862 to 1865, fighting by it was almost constant. That its successes, prior to 1864, were not pronounced or decisive, does not prove that they were not well earned. Both its successes and disasters, in view of all the conditions, tried it as no other army was tried, and both contributed to the final triumph - or, rather, made the final triumph possible.

RIDICULE is a weapon often mightier than argument; and satire has achieved results that the profoundest logic could not reach. In a rhetorical assault, a stream of laughter is more formidable than a battery of denunciation. There is no surer way to reform evils that have ridiculous aspects than to show those aspects in the strongest light. People will quickly drop their follies when they find themselves in danger of appearing foolish. It is doubtful if the solidest arguments that have appeared against the evils of our civil service system can have on the popular mind the force of the satire in the clever little volume, "The Miseries of Fo Hi," just published by Jansen, McClurg & Co. The work is from the French of F. Sarcey; and while it has no small share of the keenness and wit that mark the satirical writings of the best French school, it has no lack of points of application to our own country, upon whose system of management of the public business its satire is as direct and irresistible as it is neat and delicate. Perhaps the finest quality of the work is its overflowing humor. There are few pages from first to last but will provoke a hearty laugh at some unexpected bit of sarcasm or fine touch of drollery. The public service of China, as herein portrayed, affords a rich field for a study of many peculiarities of the system of public plunder; and the "miseries" of poor Fo Hi, a "functionary" whose chief misfortune is the possession of certain fixed notions of fidelity and honor in his official position, is a fine illustration of the workings of that delightful system, whether in the Celestial Empire or elsewhere. It would be a happy thing if a few of our "working" politicians and "practical" statesmen would read this little book; or, if too much engrossed with public affairs, they might at least peruse the "Story of the Shabby Old Man," and study the aphorisms by which Fo Hi records his successive advances in political experience. This class will find in the work food for reflection, as all readers less personally concerned will find food for laughter and delight.

MR. WILLIAM WILBERFORCE NEWTON, the author of the anonymous novel styled "The Priest and the Man," chose an enkindling theme for his fancy to work upon, in the romantic lives of Abelard and Eloise. The seven centuries since these unhappy lovers fulfilled their sorrowful destiny have not lessened the world's interest in their singular gifts and accomplishments, in their mutual sin and suffering, their long and painful atonement, and their final union after death in the tomb at Paraclete, afterward transferred to Pere La Chaise. In all these ages, imagination has taken pleasure in depicting the brilliant and persuasive scholar and the beautiful woman in a noble and pathetic form. But they lived in a misty and visionary age, which it is hard for any but the most ardent invention to re-create. It is not surprising, therefore, to find the representation by Mr. Newton paler and weaker than could be desired. His conceptions of Abelard and Eloise do not come up to the lofty ideal cherished of them, nor does the setting in which they are placed seem to be real. He fails to make us feel that it is life and truth he is reproducing, and hence we are unmoved by scenes which should influence us strongly. A historical novel which makes the dead past a breathing throbbing present, is a great achievement. But few who have attempted it have been equal to its exacting requirements. The publishers of Mr. Newton's book (Cupples, Upham & Co., Boston) have issued it in neat style, using for illustrations the engravings from one of the early editions of the famous "Letters of Abelard and Heloise."

THE subject of comparative theology has of late awakened considerable interest. Every religion, even the Christian, is more clearly understood by means of comparison. A few years ago, the Rev. James Freeman Clarke published a work on "Ten Great Religions." His recent book on "A Comparison of All Religions" (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.) is partly a continuation of the former work, and partly a re-putting of the same facts and thoughts. But the plan is different. Instead of describing and discussing each of the great faiths of mankind separately, the author here attempts to show comparatively what they all teach on the several main points of human belief. He thus gives the sum of his own conclusions of the matter: 1st, that Christianity alone now keeps alive a steadily advancing civilization; 2d, it does this because of the breadth and universality of the convictions which inspire it; 3d, it derived these from the faith and inspiration of its founder; 4th, Christianity does not differ from other religions in being alone true while they are false, but in possessing the whole of which they possess parts. A noble characteristic of the author is the breadth of his humane sympathy. He is quick to see the soul of truth and of good, wherever it may either shine or hide. The style of the book is admirable; and to it might be applied the quaint couplet originally used as descriptive of that of Thomas Hobbes, which

" * * * Like a clear transparent skin,
Hides not the blood it serves to hold in."

THE joint volume of travels by Thomas W. Sillo-way and Lee L. Powers, describing "The Cathedral Towns and Intervening Places of England, Ireland, and Scotland" (A. Williams & Co.), is more valuable than the average works of its class. The authors prosecuted a very leisurely tour over the British Islands in the summer of 1878, for the purpose of making a careful study of the cities and places of most historical interest. They took time to look, and then took time to write of what they saw, that they might instruct both themselves and their readers. By this thorough method of procedure they gathered a multitude of useful points of information which are missed by the ordinary traveller. Where the latter produces a hurried and uncertain sketch, they finish a painstaking and faithful photograph, which gives new and more contenting impressions by the minuteness of its detail. In another way they have departed from the accustomed plan of an itinerary record. They have interspersed their personal notes and comments with historic and biographic facts, thereby insuring them a solid and permanent character. In churches, galleries, museums, marts of trade, police courts, highways and by-paths, they inspected the monuments and the life of the British people, and often, where comparison was possible, drew a parallel between the aspect of these and of similar institutions and national traits in America. It detracts nothing from the worth of the volume, that its matter was originally published in a series of articles in one of the Boston newspapers.

M. RÉNAN'S "Recollections of My Youth" (Putnam) consists of two parts quite distinct in character, although closely connected as periods of the same life. The earlier chapters contain interesting reminiscences of life in Brittany, where M. Rénan spent his childhood; these chapters are among the most charming of their class—a class of writing that always possesses great fascination. The last part of the book, rather more than half of it, possesses an interest of a different kind; it gives the history of his mind in its passage from devout and unquestioning belief in the Catholic system, to a thorough-going rationalism. This too is a class of works which, if it finds fewer readers than the first, is of absorbing interest for a limited class. One is naturally reminded of F. W. Newman's "Phases of Faith," which describes a mental history not unlike that here described. M. Rénan's sketch is far less detailed and complete, and contains, moreover, more general argument in proportion to the individual experience. This general argument is put in a very strong and interesting way, and its spirit is well expressed (p. 250) in the statement: "My reasons were entirely of a philosophical and critical order; not in the least of a metaphysical, political, or moral kind." The translation is idiomatic and generally well expressed; once in a while, however, one notes such careless and incorrect sentences as this (p. 221): "As regards the exercise, and pleasure of thought is concerned," etc.

THE second volume of the revised edition of Bancroft's "History of the United States" (D. Appleton & Co.) is as carefully worked over as the first, if not so extensively altered. It contains the substance of Volumes III and IV of the original edition, and of parts of Volumes II and III of the Centenary edition. The restlessness of the author's mind in these successive revisions is illustrated by a comparison of the chapters in each. Volume III contained six chapters; Volume IV, twenty; it appears to have been at this point that the author adopted the more satisfactory method of short chapters, in place of the very long ones of the first volumes. In the edition of 1876, the period comprised in Volume III is expanded to sixteen chapters, that of Volume IV still continuing twenty. In the present revision, we find seventeen and nineteen chapters respectively. The present volume contains, if we are not mistaken, Mr. Bancroft's most important contribution to the history of the country (if we except the diplomatic history of the later volumes), in the elaboration of the international relations of the colonies at the period of the inter-colonial wars, and especially of the colonial system, both of Great Britain and the European States, which formed the most potent cause of the Revolutionary struggle. The volume ends with James Otis and the Writs of Assistance, the Peace of Paris, and the change of government in 1763.

THE large and handsome volume entitled, "An American Four-in-Hand in Britain," by Andrew Carnegie, sketches with pen and pencil the principal features of what must have been a most delightful pleasure-trip, taken by a merry party of favored people. On the first day of June, 1881, a company of eleven sailed from New York, with the intent to drive across Britain, from Brighton to Inverness, in a coach-and-four. The organizer of the excursion was he who records its history; and we infer that his ten companions were his guests on the occasion. The drive occupied seven weeks. Each day's start was made about half-past-nine in the morning; luncheon, provided in well-filled hampers taken along, was eaten under the shade of tree or hedge in some choice spot by the wayside; and lodging was secured at inns along the route. In this royal manner the expedition was accomplished; everything that fine weather, English scenery, high spirits, and a skilled and generous manager could contribute, uniting to insure the happiness of the coachers. The book narrating their adventures was originally printed for private circulation, but it is now given to the public by Charles Scribner's Sons.

To the exacting reader, the essays of George MacDonald afford a purer pleasure than his novels. While the intellect and feeling are agreeably ministered to, there is no detraction from the enjoyment by any lack of skill or power in the author. Mr. MacDonald has eminent endowments as a didactic or critical writer. He has the keen insight, the deep sympathy, the delicate appreciation, the independent and original opinions, of a man of genius, and

the sweetness, the charity, the tender humanity, and the intense permeating devoutness, that belong to a highly spiritual and religious nature. The new volume of his essays, published by D. Lathrop & Co., taking their name from the first, on "The Imagination," reveals these fine qualities in force. There are thirteen papers in the collection, treating a diversity of topics, as "The Art of Shakespeare, as Revealed by Himself;" "The Elder Hamlet;" "Browning's Christmas Eve;" "A Sketch of Individual Development;" "The History and Heroes of Medicine;" "On Polish;" "Shelley;" "True Greatness;" etc. They repay study with a gain to the mental and moral being, while they enhance respect for the culture and the Christianity of the author.

THERE are none of the blemishes in "Wanda" (J. B. Lippincott & Co.) which have made so many of the novels of "Ouida" morally poisonous. Its only harmful effect is that of making a draft on the mental endurance by a protracted strain. It is a romance which never creates the illusion of reality. Its highly colored scenes, its overdrawn characters, its melodramatic situations, are recognized as such; nevertheless there is a power in them to excite and retain the interest which is seductive. Wanda, the heroine, is a woman of exalted virtues, whose conduct in many instances affords a noble example to her sex. Her management of the schools on her estates is especially noteworthy as the embodiment of an enlightened and sagacious policy. They might serve as models to imitate in the industrial schools of the world. Were the whole tenor of the novel of a similar rational character, its influence would be unqualifiedly wholesome.

THE non-scientific reader who is interested in the vegetable world will enjoy a little book written by Edward Step, treating of "Plant Life" (Henry Holt & Co.). It is written in a simple and attractive style, with such clear explanations of the obscure points and technical terms necessarily occurring in any work on botany, that a child can easily understand it all. The author has not followed the order of scientific treatises in describing the structure and growth of plants, but has taken up such parts of their life history as are sure to be fruitful of entertainment. Thus he unfolds something of the wonders of microscopic plants, of predatory plants, of ferns, mosses, lichens, and algae, of remarkable flowers and leaves, of the fertilization of flowers, of plants and planets, and the falling leaf. An ample supply of anecdote, of passages borrowed from other authors, and of pictorial illustrations, contribute to the attractiveness of the work.

THE strained wit of the "Dialect Tales," by Sherwood Bonner (Harper Brothers), is a considerable trial to encounter. The effort to be smart defeats itself. The publishers have presented the tales in an attractive dress, but praise of them cannot go beyond their exterior. They profess to portray the rough aspects of life in the South, but, through exaggeration, are unreal and coarse.

LITERARY NOTES AND NEWS.

JOHN E. POTTER & Co., Philadelphia, publish "An Idyl of the War, and Other Poems," by Edward L. Kemp.

"HONOR BRIGHT," a novel by Miss Sue Chesnut-wood, author of "Malbrook," is published by Peter Paul & Bro., Buffalo.

MR. BLACK'S new novel of "Yolande" is issued by Harper & Brothers, both in cloth and in the "Franklin Library" form.

HERBERT SPENCER'S "Data of Ethics" is issued in cheap popular form by D. Appleton & Co., with an introduction written for this edition.

MR. AUSTIN DOBSON is to make a selection from Cowper's letters, always an object of literary interest, for a volume in the "Parchment Library."

"X. Y. Z." is the title of a new "detective story," by Anna Katharine Green, author of "The Leavenworth Case," etc., published by Putnam's Sons.

THE next volume in Osgood's "Round Robin" series of novels will be called "His Second Campaign." Its scenes are laid in northern Georgia.

THE great popularity of Green's "Short History of the English People" is shown by the fact that 90,000 copies of it have been circulated in England.

THE love-poems of a young Louisianian named Barnaval, who died lately in New York, are to be prepared for publication by Mr. Charles de Kay of that city.

P. BLAKISTON, SON & Co., announce that they will begin in July the publication of a new medical journal, "The Polyclinic," which will succeed the "Medical Register."

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS have just ready "From the Pyrenees to the Pillars of Hercules," a volume of observations on Spain, its history and its people, by Henry Day, author of "The Lawyer Abroad."

MAJOR H. A. HUNTINGTON, a painstaking and accomplished literary man, and a well known contributor to THE DIAL and other literary periodicals, has accepted the position of literary editor of the Chicago "Tribune."

"SCIENCE," the new scientific journal, is published with an attractiveness of style and richness of material which must commend it to a wide class of serious readers. It is issued weekly, by Moses King, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

A VOLUME of essays by Dr. Holmes, part of them new and part already published in the "Atlantic," and including the famous "Hunt After the Captain" and "Mechanism in Thought and Morals," is issued by Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

PROMINENT among the luxurious editions of English classics is a new three-volume issue of Sheridan's Dramatic Works, published by Dodd, Mead & Co. It contains an introduction by Richard Grant White, and three etched portraits of Sheridan.

SCRIBNER'S series of "The Navy in the Civil War," of which the first volume was "The Blockade and the Cruisers," by Professor Soley, is completed by "The Atlantic Coast," a history of the

naval operations on the Atlantic coast from 1861 to the end of the war, by Rear-Admiral Daniel Ammen, and "The Gulf and Inland Waters," a description of the achievements of the naval forces on the Mississippi and its tributaries and on the Gulf and the Red River, by Commander A. T. Mahan.

GENERAL COLSTON, late of the Egyptian army, has translated from the French "A Tragedy in the Imperial Harem at Constantinople," which he describes in his preface as "a historical novel of our own times," and a "faithful and graphic delineation of Moslem society." It is published in New York by W. S. Gottsberger.

SHAKESPEARE'S sonnets form a tempting volume in Mr. Rolfe's edition of the poet, and a similar volume is composed of "Venus and Adonis," "The Rape of Lucrece," "A Lover's Complaint," "The Passionate Pilgrim," and "The Phoenix and the Turtle." Both volumes have ample notes, and an introduction to the poems.

A WARNING to writers addicted to an undue familiarity with foreign words is furnished in the case of a newspaper editor at Breslau, who, happening to apply the term "blasé" to the Emperor William and his court, was found guilty of the horrible crime of "Majestätsbeleidigung." The punishment of the unfortunate man is not stated.

ROBERTS BROTHERS have just issued a new novel in their "No name" series, "Princess Amelie, a Fragment of Autobiography"; a life of George Sand, by Bertha Thomas, in the "Famous Women" series; "The Life and Mission of Emanuel Swedenborg," by Benjamin Worcester; and a new edition of Mr. Hale's clever story, "Ten Times One is Ten."

HARPER & BROTHERS have just issued a volume of biographies by Howard Carroll, called "Twelve Americans, Their Lives and Times," the twelve being Horatio Seymour, Charles Francis Adams, Peter Cooper, Hannibal Hamlin, John Gilbert, Robert C. Schenck, Frederick Douglass, William Allen, A. G. Thurman, Joseph Jefferson, E. B. Washburne, and A. H. Stephens. Portraits are given of the twelve.

THE "Riverside Edition" of Hawthorne, which is deserving of the highest praise for its mechanical beauty and tastefulness, is just completed by Houghton, Mifflin & Co.; the twelfth volume containing, in addition to a number of tales, biographical stories, and biographical sketches, a new life of Hawthorne, by Mr. Lathrop, who has with much taste edited the series. The volume is enriched by a new steel portrait of Hawthorne, the most expressive we have ever seen.

CASELL & COMPANY announce a series of "Manuals for Students of Medicine," designed to meet the wants of students and practitioners for authoritative and compact manuals embodying the results of the newest discoveries. The manuals will be illustrated, printed in a form convenient for the pocket, and inexpensive. The authors are selected from the most eminent medical writers and teachers. Five of the volumes are already in press: I, "Elements of Histology," by E. Kline, M.D., F.R.S., of the Medical School of St. Bartholomew's Hospital,

London; II, "Surgical Pathology," by A. J. Pepper, M.B., M.S., F.R.C.S., of St. Mary's Hospital; III, "Applied Anatomy," by Frederick Treves, F.R.C.S., of London Hospital; IV, "Human Physiology," by Henry Power, M.B., F.R.C.S., of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; V, "Pathological Chemistry," by Charles H. Ralfe, M.D., F.R.C.P., of the London Hospital.

It is a question of ethics whether a pious literary fraud is better than any other kind of a literary fraud. Virtue & Yorston, 12 Dey street, New York, issued in 1866 a book with the title "History of the Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary in North America," by the Rev. Xavier Donald Macleod, Professor of Rhetoric and Belles-Lettres in St. Mary's College, Cincinnati; with a Memoir of the Author, by the Most Rev. John B. Purcell, D.D., Archbishop of Cincinnati; octavo, 467 pages. The same publishers, without any change in the body of the work, and from the same plates, reissue the book under a different title, as follows: "History of Roman Catholicism in North America," with the remainder of the title as given above. No intimation is given that the book has been issued under another title, and in order that the fact might not be suspected, the copyright notice, which must bear the date, has been omitted.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

[The following List includes all New Books, American and English, received during the month of June by Messrs. JAMES, McCLELLAND & Co., Chicago.]

HISTORY.

History of the United States of America. From the Discovery of the Continent. By Geo. Bancroft. The Author's last revision. To be completed in 6 vols., 8vo, gilt tops. Vols. I and II now ready. Per vol. \$2.50.

"In this edition of his great work the author has made extensive changes in the text, condensing in places, enlarging in others, and carefully revising. It is practically a new book, embodying the results of the latest researches, and enjoying the advantage of the author's long and mature experience."

—Publishers' Announcement.

History of the Civil War in America. By the Comte De Paris. Vol. III, 8vo, pp. 923. \$3.50.

"We advise all Americans to read it carefully and judge for themselves as the future historian of our war, of whom we have heard so much, be not already arrived in the Comte De Paris."—*The Nation*, in a review of vols. I and II.

Brook Farm to Cedar Mountain. In the War of the Great Rebellion, 1861-2. By G. H. Gordon. Pp. 376. \$3.

The Atlantic Coast. By Daniel Ammen, Rear Admiral, U. S. N. "The Navy in the Civil War."—II. Pp. 373. \$1.

The Gulf and Inland Waters. By A. T. Mahan, Commander U. S. N. "The Navy in the Civil War."—III. Pp. 267. \$1.

"The record of these exploits is filled with acts of daring, marvellous escapes, and terrific encounters. Commander Mahan has done full justice to this side of his narrative, but he has given at the same time a record of this part of the war that has greater claim to historic value than any which have preceded it."

—Publishers' Announcement.

From Gettysburg to the Rapidan. The Army of the Potomac, July, 1863, to April, 1864. By A. A. Humphreys, Brig.-Gen'l, etc. Pp. 86. 75c.

BIOGRAPHY.

Twelve Americans; Horatio Seymour, Charles F. Adams, Peter Cooper, Hannibal Hamlin, John Gilbert, R. C. Schenck, Frederick Douglass, Wm. Allen, A. G. Thurman, Joseph Jefferson, E. B. Washburne, A. H. Stevens. By Howard Carroll. *Portraits*. \$1.75.

Biographical Sketches. By C. K. Paul. Pp. 224. London. Net. 2.65.

Recollections of my Youth. From the French of Ernest Renan. Pp. 325. Paper, 50c; cloth \$1.

"Will be read with extraordinary interest."—*London Times*.

George Sand. By Bertha Thomas. "Famous Women." Pp. 278. \$1.

The Life and Mission of Emanuel Swedenborg. By B. Worcester. Pp. 473. *Portrait*. \$2.

Life and Adventures of Josh Billings. With a characteristic sketch of the humorist. By F. S. Smith. Also 100 illustrated aphorisms. Paper, 25c.

Zephaniah Moore Humphrey, and Five Selected Sermons. Memorial Sketch. Pp. 217. *Portrait*. Net, \$1.50.

TRAVEL.

Across Chryse. Being the Narrative of a Journey of Exploration through the South China Border Lands from Canton to Mandalay. By A. R. Colquhoun, F.R.G.S., etc. 2 vols. 8vo. London. \$7.50.

The Cathedral Towns, and Interesting Places of England, Ireland and Scotland. A Description of the Cities, Cathedrals, Lakes, Mountains, Ruins and Watering Places. By T. W. Silloway and L. L. Powers. Pp. 361. \$2.

Germany Seen Without Spectacles; or, Random Sketches. By Henry Ruggles. Pp. 296. \$2.

The Land of the Lion and Sun; or, Modern Persia. Being Experiences of Life in Persia from 1866 to 1881. By C. J. Willis, M.D. 8vo, pp. 446. London. \$4.

From the Pyrenees to the Pillars of Hercules. Sketches of Places and People in Spain. By Henry Day. \$1.50.

An Arctic Boat Journey In the Autumn of 1854. By I. I. Hayes, M.D. *New Edition*. Enlarged. Pp. 387. \$1.50.

The Pocket Guide for Europe. By T. W. Knox. *New and Enlarged Edition*. Pp. 223. \$1.

The Yellowstone National Park. A Manual for Tourists, etc. By H. J. Winsor. Illustrated. Pp. 96. Paper, 40c.

ESSAYS, BELLES LETTRES, ETC.

Pages From an Old Volume of Life. Essays 1857-1881. By O. W. Holmes. Pp. 433. \$2.

A welcome volume from the pen of one of the most delightful of modern essayists.

Underground Russia. Revolutionary Profiles and Sketches from Life. From the Italian of Stepiak. With a Preface by Peter Lavroff. Pp. 272. \$1.25.

"The book is as yet unique in literature; it is a priceless contribution to our knowledge of Russian thought and feeling."—*Athenæum*, London.

The Works of O. A. Brownson. Collected and arranged by H. F. Brownson. 8vo, Vol. IV. Containing the Writings on Religion and Society prior to the Author's Conversion. \$3.

Nathaniel Hawthorne's Complete Works. *Riverside Edition*. 12mo. Illustrated with Etchings by Church, Gifford and others. Vols XI-XII, completing the Work. Per Vol. \$2.

The *N. Y. Times* says of this edition, which is now completed, "In many respects the most severely simple and chastely rich books that have ever come from the famous Riverside Press."

The Imagination and Other Essays. By George MacDonald, LL.D. Pp. 312. \$1.50.

"Like everything MacDonald has written, full of good things and stimulating suggestions."—*The Independent*.

Walks in the Regions of Science and Faith. A Series of Essays. By H. Goodwin, D.D. Pp. 310. London. Net, \$2.65.

The Roman Poets of the Augustan Age. Virgil. By W. Y. Sellar, M.A., LL.D. Pp. 422. London. Net, \$2.25.

The Essays of Elia. By Charles Lamb. With Introduction and Notes by A. Alinger. Pp. 424. London. \$1.75.

The Bottom Facts Concerning the Science of Spiritualism. By I. J. Truesdell. Pp. 331. \$1.50.

The Reading of Books. Its Pleasures, Profits and Perils. By C. F. Thwing. Pp. 170. \$1.25.

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